

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01

VO-03 /061 W

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R 301206Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9787

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 17325

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PINT, PINS, IN

SUBJECT: P.R. SARKAR AND OTHER MARGIS SENTENCED TO LIFE
IMPRISONMENT

REE: NEW DELHI 17218

1. ON NOVEMBER 29 PATNA DISTRICT AND ADDITIONAL SESSIONS
JUDGE SINGH SENTENCED ANANDA MARG CHIEF P.R. SARKAR AND
THE FOUR OTHER CONVICTED MARGIS TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. THE
FIVE HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY THREE DAYS BEFORE ON CHARGES OF
CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY, SUPPRESSION OF EVIDENCE, AND MURDER
IN THE KILLING OF SIX ANANDA MARG DEFECTORS IN 1970.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, JUDGE SINGH STATED THAT LIFE
IMPRISONMENT FOR SARKAR WOULD SERVE THE ENDS OF
JUSTICE "CONSIDERING HIS AGE, PRESENT STATE OF HEALTH AND
LOSS OF REPUTATION WHICH HE HAD ALREADY SUFFERED." AS FOR
THE OTHERS, THE JUDGE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IN VIEW OF
THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM, "IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY NO
DOUBT ACQUIESCED IN THE EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF
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CONSPIRACY, BUT (DID SO) UNDER THEIR BLIND FAITH IN THE

LEADERSHIP OF THE ACCUSED P.R. SARKAR WHOM THEY
CONSIDERED THEIR MARG GURU. THAT BEING SO, I FEEL THAT
THE ENDS OF JUSTICE WOULD BE SERVED IF THEY ARE ALSO
AWARDED LIFE IMPRISONMENT." (NOTE: COMMITTING OF MURDER
AND ENGAGING IN A CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER ARE
BOTH CRIMES WHICH ARE PUNISHABLE BY DEATH OR LIBZV
IMPRISONMENT UNDER THE INDIAN PENAL CODE. END NOTE).
SCHNEIDER

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